Use of harmful colours in soft drinks

2158. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received reports that some of the colours of ingredients used in soft drinks under different names are not safe for health;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether investigations were made into the matter; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to ban the use of harmful colours and ingredients by soft drink manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) to (c) Information is being collected from States/U.Ts.

(d) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 permit only those colours and ingredients which are considered to be safe. On the basis of the advice of the experts this Ministry has decided to ban three synthetic colours viz. Amaranth, Fast Red E and Green S.

Retirement benefits for coal miners who work in underground mines

2159. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers who work in underground coal mines would be allowed to nominate anybody they choose for jobs in collieries after their voluntary retirement;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) how this measure would reduce cost and increase productivity?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) No, Sir. There is no scheme or proposal presently under consideration to provide jobs to any nominee of the under-ground workers seeking voluntary retirement.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Petrol and Petroleum Products in the country

2160. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to create a price equalisation fund to have uniform prices of petrol and petroleum products all over the country; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to fix a concessional rate for diesel oil used for agricultural purposes?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

Monitoring of the fat content of cooking oil

2161. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the ill effects of consumption of saturated fat by human beings and the resultant heart diseases;

(b) if so, what is Government's policy with regard to the use of vanaspati or hydro-generated oil in the country:

(c) whether Government would like to advise the people to use vanaspati or any non-hydro-generated edible oil with less saturated fat for better health care; and

(d) whether his Ministry are monitoring the saturated fat contents of the cooking oil being imported by Government and distributed all over the country; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The people are being educated from time to time through the mass media viz. T.V., Radio, Newspapers etc. about the ill effects of consumption of saturated fats.

(d) No, Sir.

Investment made in Neyveli Lignite Corporation

2162. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total investment made so far in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation; and

(b) whether the Corporation has wiped out its accumulated losses and is making profits; if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Total investment (equity+outstanding plan loan+capitalised interest during construction) made by the Central Government in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation as on 31-3-90 stood at Rs. 1748.58 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir. The cumulative loss of the Corporation as on 31-3-76 was Rs. 83.88 crores. Accumulated losses were wiped out in 1981-82. The cumulative profit of the Corporation as on 31-3-90 was Rs. 544.99 crores (Provisional).

Enquiry into mismanagement in Yoga Institutes

2163. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry appointed in 1987 two commissions to enquire into the alleged mismanagement and misuse of funds by Shri Dhirendra Brahmchari at the three Government funded Yoga Institutes;

(b) if so, what are the findings of the commissions; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI RASHEED MASOOD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

National level conference on global market strategies for Indian industries

2164. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a National level conference on the global market strategies for Indian industries was organised by the confederation of engineering industries; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the suggestions made thereat and the follow up action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) National Conference on India's Economic Strategies for the 90's was organised by the Confederation of Engineering Industry on 18th April, 1990.

(b) The main observations and suggestions made at the conference were as follows:

In a fast changing world, India can no longer afford to be inward looking keeping in view globalisation of economic activity. The need for competition and competitiveness was emphasised for the Indian industry. It was felt that the key to deve-